

Message Text

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ORIGIN EUR-25

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E.O. 11652 GDS

TAGS: PARM,NATO

SUBJECT: COUNCIL DISCUSSION OF FUTURE ROLE OF MBFR
WORKING GROUP

REF: (A) USNATO 3232; (B) USNATO 3246

1. WE DO NOT THINK US SHOULD TAKE LEAD IN SUGGESTING NEW
WORK PROGRAM FOR MBFR WORKING GROUP AND RECOMMEND MISSION
TAKE LOW KEY IN COUNCIL DISCUSSION OF WORKING GROUP JULY 11.
HOWEVER, GIVEN MISSION'S ASSESSMENT THAT FORTHCOMING ATTI-
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TUDE BY US ON SPECIFIC ROLE AND TASKS FOR MBFR WORKING

GROUP COULD LIMIT MORE AMBITIOUS COUNCIL INITIATIVES, WE LEAVE IT TO YOUR DISCRETION TO AGREE THAT WORKING GROUP CAN EXAMINE OR CONTINUE TO EXAMINE CONSTRAINTS, VERIFICATION, DATA BASE, EARLY WARNING. HOWEVER, WHILE WE HAVE NO OBJECTION TO COUNCIL "SEEKING THE WORKING GROUP'S ADVICE" ON THE SUBJECTS ENNUMERATED IN PARA 4 REF A., WITH THE EXCEPTION OF THE TACAIR ITEM DISCUSSED BELOW, WE WOULD NOT WELCOME EFFORTS BY THE WORKING GROUP TO OBTAIN AN AGREED DATA BASE THAT WENT BEYOND THE DATA SUBGROUP'S CURRENT MANDATE. IN OUR VIEW, SUCH EXPANDED ACTIVITY WOULD BE COUNTERPRODUCTIVE AT THIS STAGE, SERVING ONLY TO ARM CRITICS OF MBFR, SUCH AS THE UK,

AND DISTRACT ATTENTION FROM THE SUBSTANTIVE PREPARATIONS FOR THE FALL NEGOTIATIONS. WITH REGARD TO THE QUESTION OF WHETHER A STUDY SHOULD BE UNDERTAKEN ON THE RELATION OF TACAIR TO THE LAND BATTLE, WE BELIEVE NATO SHOULD AWAIT THE RESULTS OF CURRENT SGTA STUDIES BEFORE CONSIDERATION IS GIVEN TO THE LAND/AIR RELATIONSHIP ISSUE. THESE PROJECTS SHOULD BE UNDERTAKEN BY WORKING GROUP WITH THE AIM OF OFFERING ADVICE TO THE COUNCIL. BUT COMPLETED STUDIES BY THE WORKING GROUP SHOULD NOT BE SET AS A PRE-REQUISITE TO COUNCIL DISCUSSION OF OR DECISION ON THESE OR OTHER TOPICS, AND IN GENERAL THE WORKING GROUP SHOULD NOT BE VIEWED AS A SEPARATE LAYER WHICH MUST ADVISE ON OR CONCUR IN ASPECTS OF MBFR BEFORE THESE ARE READY FOR DECISION; NOR SHOULD IT SERVE AS A MEANS TO DRAW OUT THE ALREADY COMPLICATED PROCESS OF PREPARING FOR NEGOTIATIONS.

2. WE DO NOT AGREE WITH PECK'S SUGGESTION (REF B) THAT WORKING GROUP BE ASKED TO ADDRESS FORM OF MBFR AGREEMENTS. WE BELIEVE IT IS PREMATURE TO ADDRESS FORM OF AGREEMENTS IN THE ABSENCE OF CONSENSUS ON SUBSTANCE, AND POSSIBLY WITHOUT A CHANCE TO TEST SUBSTANCE IN ACTUAL NEGOTIATIONS. MOREOVER, WORKING GROUP IS NOT APPROPRIATE FORUM FOR DISCUSSING THIS SUBJECT, WHICH SHOULD BE ADDRESSED BY THE NEGOTIATORS OR THE COUNCIL AND SPC.

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